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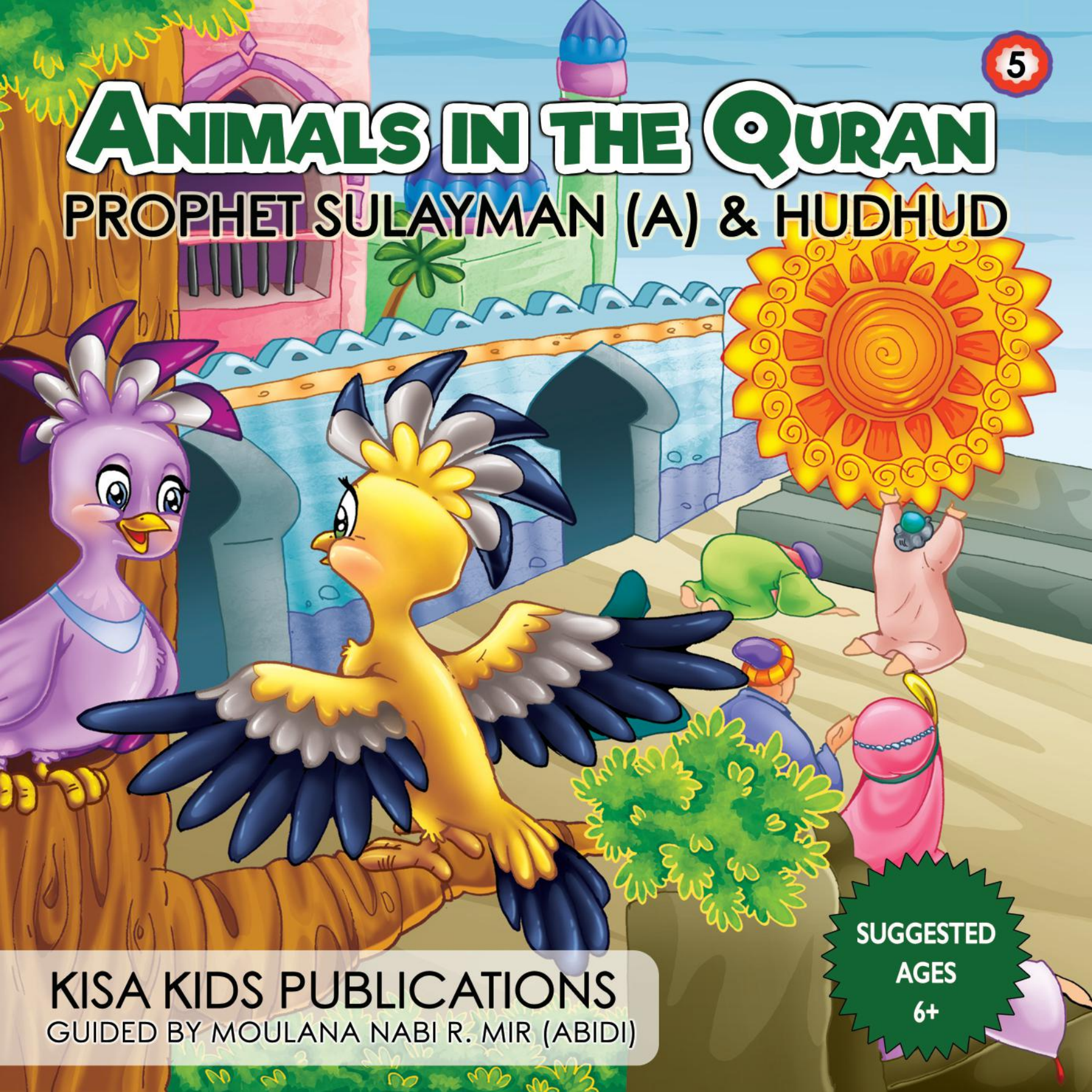
ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET SULAYMAN (A) & HUDHUD



SUGGESTED AGES 6+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

Brother Alāʾ Jaʿfarī

Acknowledgements

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.

Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank the efforts of Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Sarah Ali, Amna Hussain, Zainab Mithani, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Kisae Nazar, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Zainab Hussain, and Fatima Hussain. We would especially like to thank Nainawa Publications for their artwork and contributions
May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Talebi family

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Animals in the Quran* is to strengthen children's understanding of how Allah is All-Powerful and All-Wise, thus strengthening their tawakkul and reliance. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and tawfīq to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʾās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think outside the box by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum and begin their life long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of Darse Khārij from Ḥawzah, Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, growing up in India while now residing in the United States, he has had the honor to meet with various communities and community leaders, and values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials and to create open source platforms so information and resources are available and accessible to all.

* * *

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family. Share the word, and join the mission.

5

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET SULAYMAN (A) AND HUDHUD

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Long ago, there lived a great Prophet of Allah who was also a king! Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa)* was very wise and always thanked Allah for giving him so many blessings! You see, he ruled over a large army of both humans and animals. He could also speak the language of animals, and even the wind followed his orders and took him anywhere he wished! Allah had truly blessed him in every way!

One day, Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) noticed his messenger bird, Hudhud, was missing. He went to his eagle Kurkus, the leader of all birds, and asked him, “Where is Hudhud?” Kurkus searched and searched, but Hudhud was nowhere to be found!

Pronunciation Guide:
ā is an elongated “a” sound, like “aa”
a comes from the middle of the throat

Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) became very upset. He asked, “Where is Hudhud? I hope he is okay and has a good reason for not being here! If not, he isn’t doing his job like he should.”

We should always make sure that we do what we are responsible for!

All the animals became worried and continued to search for Hudhud everywhere.

Meanwhile, Hudhud was in a beautiful garden in the city of Sabā. He was chatting with other birds, who were telling him about the city. They told Hudhud about their queen, Bilqīs,* and how she and her followers prayed to the sun. Hudhud's jaw fell wide open when he heard this!

He wondered, *How could anyone pray to anyone or anything other than Allah?*

Pronunciation Guide:
ī is an elongated "e" sound, like "ee"

Hudhud had to see this with his own eyes. So, he flew to the palace of Bilqīs. There, he saw a round, golden object that looked like the sun. Sure enough, Queen Bilqīs and her followers were doing *sajdah* to it! He couldn't believe his eyes!

Hudhud quickly flew back toward Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa). He had to tell him all about this strange thing he just saw! He prayed that Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) would be able to guide the people of Sabā.

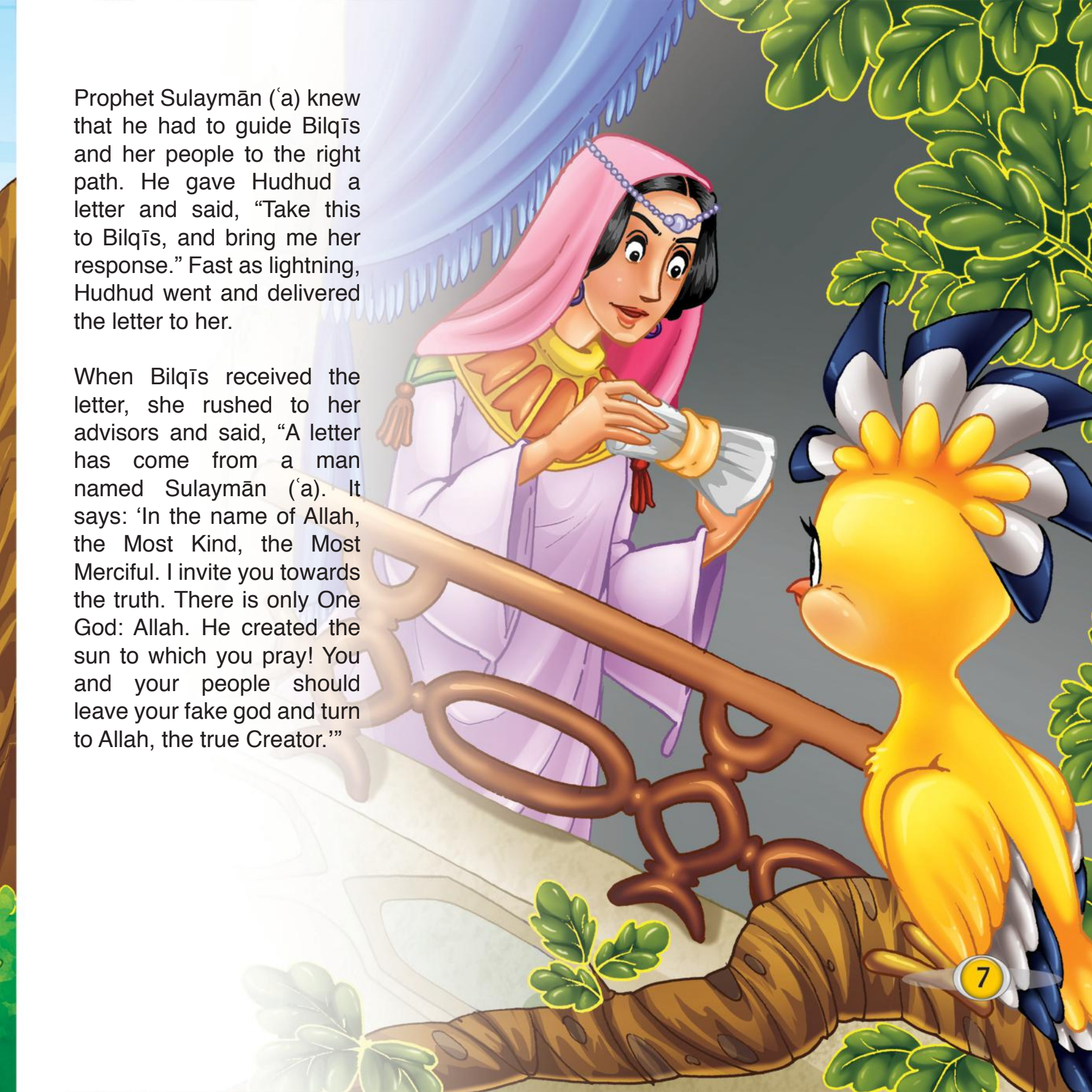
As soon as he reached Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa), Hudhud began telling him about the people of Sabā. “Can you believe they worship the sun?!” he said in disbelief.

The other birds were so happy to see Hudhud! They were even happier when they heard where he was. He was trying to teach people about Allah. *Alḥamdulillāh!**

***Pronunciation Guide:**
ḥ is a heavy “ha” sound that comes from the middle of the throat

Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) knew that he had to guide Bilqīs and her people to the right path. He gave Hudhud a letter and said, “Take this to Bilqīs, and bring me her response.” Fast as lightning, Hudhud went and delivered the letter to her.

When Bilqīs received the letter, she rushed to her advisors and said, “A letter has come from a man named Sulaymān (ʿa). It says: ‘In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful. I invite you towards the truth. There is only One God: Allah. He created the sun to which you pray! You and your people should leave your fake god and turn to Allah, the true Creator.’”



After reading the letter, she asked her advisors, “What should I do?”

One advisor said, “We have powerful armies! Should we go to war, my Queen?”

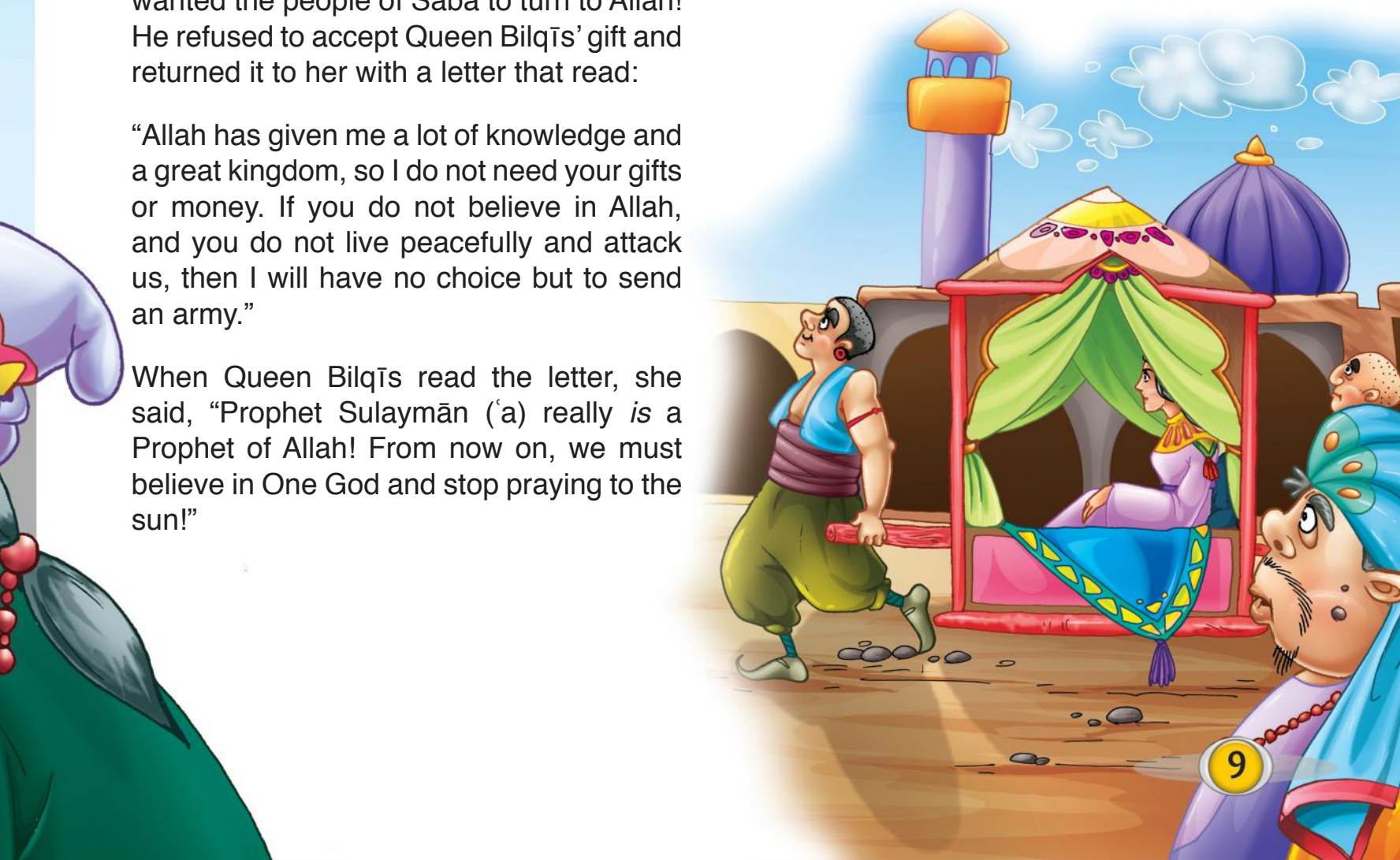
However, Queen Bilqīs was a peaceful ruler. She had a better idea!

“I know!” she said, “Let’s test if Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) is really a Prophet! Let’s send him an expensive gift. If he accepts it and lets us continue praying to the sun, he is not a true Prophet. A true Prophet could never be bribed by a gift. But if he *doesn’t* accept our gift, we will know he is speaking the truth.”

Queen Bilqīs sent a messenger to Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) with a grand, expensive gift. Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) was unhappy to receive such a thing. He did not want a gift, he wanted the people of Sabā to turn to Allah! He refused to accept Queen Bilqīs’ gift and returned it to her with a letter that read:

“Allah has given me a lot of knowledge and a great kingdom, so I do not need your gifts or money. If you do not believe in Allah, and you do not live peacefully and attack us, then I will have no choice but to send an army.”

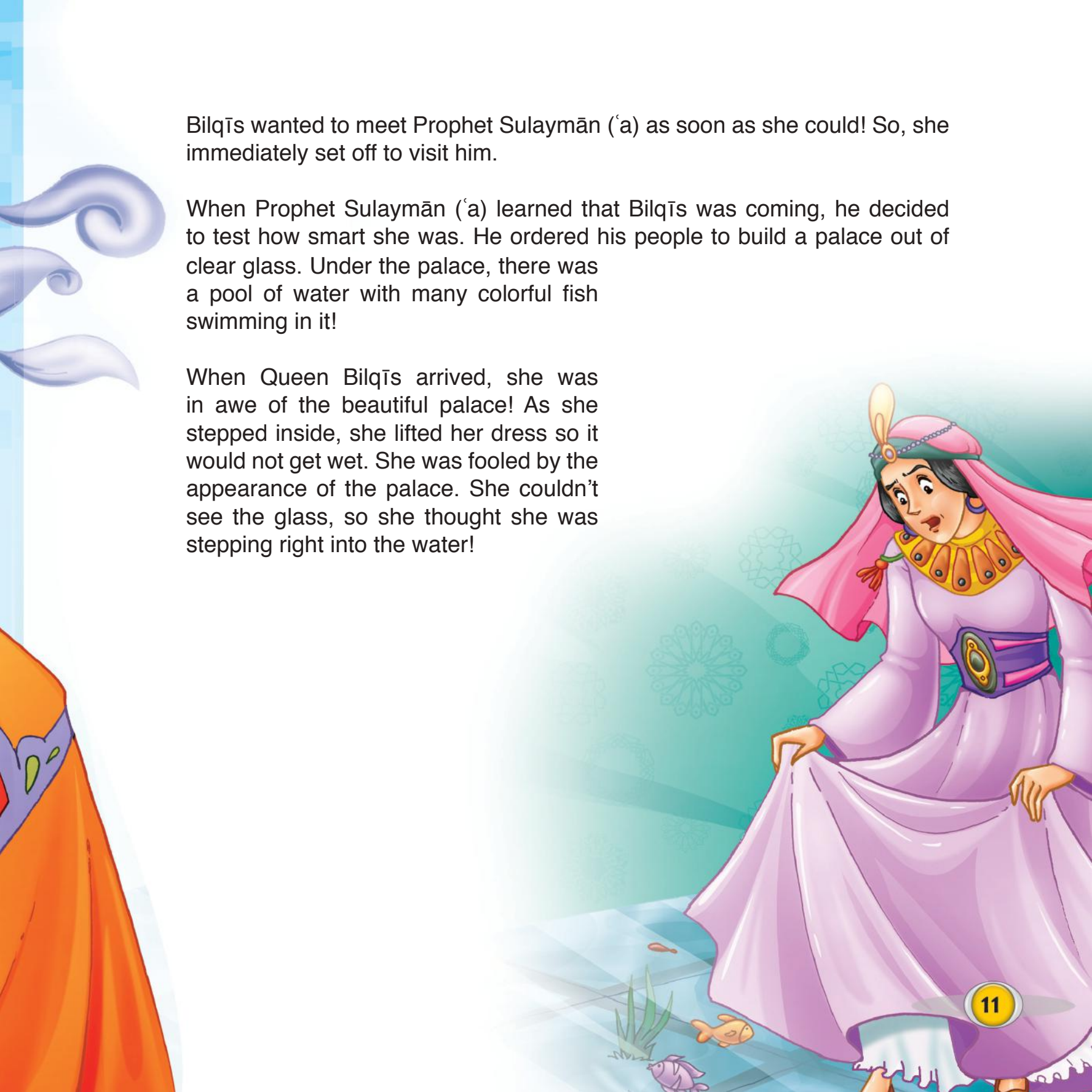
When Queen Bilqīs read the letter, she said, “Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) really *is* a Prophet of Allah! From now on, we must believe in One God and stop praying to the sun!”



Bilqīs wanted to meet Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) as soon as she could! So, she immediately set off to visit him.

When Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) learned that Bilqīs was coming, he decided to test how smart she was. He ordered his people to build a palace out of clear glass. Under the palace, there was a pool of water with many colorful fish swimming in it!

When Queen Bilqīs arrived, she was in awe of the beautiful palace! As she stepped inside, she lifted her dress so it would not get wet. She was fooled by the appearance of the palace. She couldn't see the glass, so she thought she was stepping right into the water!



When she realized her mistake, she understood that this palace was actually a special message from Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa). He was showing her that things are not always what they seem. Queen Bilqīs could see the pool and the fish, but not the clear glass. Similarly, the sun was the most powerful thing she could see, so she prayed to it. But there was something even more powerful behind it that she couldn't see: Allah!
She was an intelligent woman, indeed! Once she understood Prophet Sulaymān's (ʿa) lesson, her faith became even stronger!

From this story, we learned that even though we cannot see Allah, we must always believe in Him and trust Him!

Family Time

فَمَكَثَ غَيْرَ بَعِيدٍ فَقَالَ أَحَطْتُ بِمَا لَمْ تُحِطْ بِهِ وَ جِئْتُكَ مِنْ سَبَإٍ بِنَبَإٍ يَقِينٍ

He [Hudhud] did not stay for long [before he turned up] and said, "I have come to know something that you do not know, and I have brought you certain news from Sabā". (27:22)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When reading and learning about stories from the Qurʾān, it is important for us to reflect upon the lessons they teach us. In order to help your children internalize the lessons from this story, discuss the following questions:

1. Why was Hudhud missing? What did he discover?
2. How did Queen Bilqīs test whether Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) truly believed in Allah (swt)?
3. How did Prophet Sulaymān (ʿa) test Queen Bilqīs' intelligence? What was he trying to teach her?
4. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Duʿā: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Sajdah: Prostration

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʾān

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Prophet Sulayman's (a) messenger bird, Hudhud, is missing! All the other animals are worried; where could he be? Read *Prophet Sulayman (a) and Hudhud* to find out where Hudhud is and what important lesson he is learning about Allah's infinite power!

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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